EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON MEDICALLY IMPORTANT MOLLUSKS IN SERGIPE: A DIDACTIC PROPOSAL FOR HEALTH EDUCATION

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Sergipe ranks as the state with the highest prevalence of schistosomiasis in Brazil relative to its population size. However, the intermediate host of the parasite responsible for the disease is often unrecognized or mistaken for other gastropod species. This study highlights the importance of health education in accurately identifying the species *Biomphalaria glabrata*, which is associated with the transmission of *Schistosoma mansoni*, the causative agent of this endemic disease in the state. Additionally, it addresses *Achatina fulica*, a species linked to the transmission of *Angiostrongylus costaricensis*, the causative agent of abdominal angiostrongyliasis, and *A. cantonensis*, responsible for eosinophilic meningitis. The objective of this study was to develop accessible and straightforward educational material to disseminate information about these species, which play critical roles as intermediate hosts of helminths with significant local medical relevance. A qualitative bibliographic research approach was adopted, drawing on reference works on the topic and analyses by health education experts, addressing key gaps in existing materials. The outcome is an informational brochure on these mollusks and the helminthiases they transmit. The material uses simple, direct, and interactive language in a digital format, with strong potential to disseminate knowledge about the morphology and habitat of these animals. The conclusion emphasizes the importance of creating innovative educational materials and the need to implement them in diverse educational settings for evaluation by professionals and educators. This initiative seeks to strengthen knowledge about these animals and the neglected diseases with epidemic potential they are associated with, thereby fostering health promotion.

Keywords: Health Education; Schistosomiasis; Angiostrongyliasis.